

Library News | Spring 2023

From the Friends of the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library



Spring Book Sale

Find great reads for all ages at the Blacksburg Friends of the Library used book sale on April 21st and 22nd. Fill a regular plastic grocery bag for only \$5!

Book sale hours are 12-4pm on Friday, 4/21 and 10am-3pm on Saturday, 4/22. Fill your plastic grocery bag for 1/2 price on Saturday from 1-3pm!

Friends of the Library members may shop early from 11am-12pm on Friday. Friends of the Library membership is also available for purchase or renewal during the sale.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Judy Rea (Blacksburg FOL Book Sale Rep.)



Friends of the Library Used Book Sale - Blacksburg Library



FRI, APRIL 21 - 12 to 4 PM

SAT, APRIL 22 - 10 AM to 3 PM

FOL Members Only - FRI 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
(1/2 Price on SAT from 1 - 3 PM)

Friends of the Library Membership -
Purchase or renew at sale!

FILL A STANDARD
**PLASTIC
GROCERY BAG**
JUST
\$5

A VARIETY OF
GENTLY USED
BOOKS FOR ALL
AGES!

HISTORY

FICTION

LOTS OF

CLASSICS

YOUTH

LOTS OF

TEEN

HOBBIES

RELIGION

SCIENCE

HEALTH AND

PAPERBACKS

BIOGRAPHIES

General News

Are you ready for a fun-filled day of history, education, and family activities? Join us on Saturday, April 29th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Meadowbrook Library for the Library of Virginia's (LVA) On the Go! This is the event you won't want to miss.

LVA On the Go is a traveling exhibit designed to bring local history, family history, and educational materials to communities across Virginia. LVA ambassadors will be on hand to help you engage with all the materials and resources that the Library of Virginia has to offer.

There are plenty of exciting events scheduled throughout the day, including a petting zoo, children's story time, and genealogy help. The Meadowbrook Museum will be open from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, as well as information from the Christiansburg Institute, so be sure to drop by and check out their exhibits.

If you're interested in learning more about genealogy, there will be a Genealogy 101 session at 10:30 am and another one at 12:30 pm. Additionally, there will be sessions on Virginia Untold: The African American Narrative at 11:00 am. If you're interested in digital resources or newspaper research, there will be sessions on those topics as well.

For those who enjoy reading about the history of the area, our guest speaker, author Daniel Thorp, will join us at noon. And for families with young children, there will be ongoing children's activities and crafts, as well as a second children's story time at 12:30 pm.

No registration is required for LVA On the Go, and people of all ages are welcome to attend. Come by anytime between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm to experience all the activities and events we have to offer.

We hope to see you there!



Complete Schedule of Events:

10:30 am - 11:00 am: Genealogy 101

10:30 am - 11:00 am: Children's Story Time

11:00 am - 11:30 am: Virginia Untold: [The African American Narrative](#)

11:00 am - 1:00 pm: Precious Valley Farms Petting Zoo

11:30 am - 12:00 pm: LVA Digital Resources

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm: Guest Speaker, Author Daniel Thorp

12:00 pm - 12:30 pm: Newspaper Research

12:30 pm - 1:00 pm: Children's Story Time

12:30 pm - 1:00 pm: Genealogy 101

1:00 pm - 1:30 pm: Find It VA Resources

Kerri Copus (Library Program Coordinator)

General News Cont'd

It's a Capital Idea: Improvement Coming to Blacksburg and Christiansburg

One of MFRL's Strategic Goals is to Develop Spaces. We are committed to developing, and re-developing, our library spaces around our patrons' needs and expectations. As we approach the end of our last Strategic Plan (which runs through June 2024), we are excited that two projects that work towards this goal have been included in Montgomery County's Capital Improvement program: Blacksburg Library Outdoor Improvements; and Christiansburg Library Renovation and Expansion.

Blacksburg Library Outdoor Improvement

It was during the pandemic that the lack of a space for outdoor programming and use at Blacksburg became most clear. Where Christiansburg and Meadowbrook have plenty of outdoor space for programs, events, and even just reading on a sunny day, Blacksburg's lot is tight. Jessie Peterman Memorial Library in Floyd also has a lot without a great deal of extra space, but at least there are not through streets on all four sides. The best space at Blacksburg for outdoor library activity is on the Draper Road lawn, but traffic is an issue. With the cooperation of the town, we have set up snow fencing for some programs in the past few years to keep our patrons separate from cars. But we could not help but think of the possibilities if a more permanent solution could be developed.

So began the concept of the Blacksburg Library Outdoor Improvement. Through Montgomery County's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) 2023-2027, we now have over \$400,000 available to create a beautiful, traffic-safe, flexible outdoor library space on the Draper Road side of Blacksburg Library. As currently planned, the Outdoor Service Area will feature a re-graded landscape, a perimeter fence with signage and built-in storytelling features, patio seating, a wood trellis, a storytime presentation/mini-amphitheater space, a nature exploration and garden space, and needed power and lighting. It will be accessible to all and compliment both the library and the neighborhood.

The Outdoor Service Area project is being led by Colley Architects of Blacksburg and managed by the Montgomery County General Services Department. We are hoping for a timeline that gets the pro-

ject done by National Library Week 2024 – but if that is missed, Summer 2024 as a fallback.

Christiansburg Library Renovation and Expansion

Although Christiansburg Library serves as the primary library for Christiansburg, as well as the Riner and Pilot communities, the current 35-year old facility is no longer adequate. Its systems are dated and frequently fail, and it is also simply not big enough. The renovation and expansion of Christiansburg Library will increase square footage from 15,001 to 31,954 and provide a modern, flexible platform for library service. The CIP currently has almost \$10 million set for the Christiansburg Library renovation, to be expended from July 2024 through June 2027.

Renovation of the Christiansburg Library facility will provide a durable and modern building ready for decades of public use. A renovated facility will accommodate growth in demand and population, emerging library services such as maker and robotics labs, children's STEM area, media lab, a computer classroom, and RFID materials management; it will also meet patron's current expectations for public internet access, study/telemedicine spaces, community meeting spaces, teen services, children's programming, excellent library collections, and high-quality in-person service. As we near time to begin planning and developing Requests for Proposals from the library architecture firms, there will be a range of opportunities for community input, probably as early as 2024.

In addition to these CIP funded projects, we will be asking for major renovations for Blacksburg Library in subsequent CIP cycles. And we haven't forgotten about improvements to Jessie Peterman Memorial Library in Floyd, and Meadowbrook Library in Shawsville (about which you will learn more in the Friends Newsletter for summer). Not to mention, the possibilities of expanded mobile library services and development of service models for other communities in Montgomery and Floyd County. Thanks to the Friends of the Library and our community, we are dreaming big, and we appreciate your input and support as we work to inform, inspire, empower and connect the people we serve.

Karim Khan (MFRL Director)

General News Cont'd



Thank you Friends for your financial support of the Summer Reading Program! Last year over 525 children and teens participated across our four libraries.

And here's the announcement from Sarah Pahl, Youth Services Manager, for the 2023 program. Doesn't it look great?

Ellen Hall (President, Montgomery County Friends)

All Together Now : June 2 - July 29, 2023

Starting June 2nd, jump into Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library's All Together Now Summer Reading Program! Track your reading online or on paper to earn awesome prizes. Look for upcoming Summer Reading programs, including special guests Professor Whizzpop, Joelle Shenk, and the Soap Bubble Circus.

For more information contact Youth Services Manager, Sarah Pahl at 540-382-6969 or spahl@mfrl.org

Branch Updates

Blacksburg | Hello to our wonderful Friends!

We are excited to expand our partnerships through library programming! We are hosting the Downtown Blacksburg, Inc. monthly membership meetings, partnering with Hokie Electric Vehicle Team to offer an electric vehicle show and share, partnering with Martin Wealth Solutions to offer retirement and Medicare workshops, and Virginia Organizing to offer a housing rights workshop. These are new partnerships for us, bringing in community members that might not normally come to the library!

Family READS, our family literacy and English Lan-

guage Learning (ELL) series partnering with the Literacy Volunteers of the New River Valley, is wrapping up the spring series on April 5th. We helped seven families from predominately Arabic speaking countries learn English skills which will help them support their families. Thank you to our Friends for your support of Family READS!

Don't forget about our Friends of the Library semi-annual book sale on April 21 and 22. We will offer a members-only shopping hour on April 21 from 12-1pm. A bag of books will be \$5.

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Branch Updates Cont'd

We have tons of children's books to sell this time, so please join us in raising money for our Friends and for library programming!

Finally, it is with sadness and excitement that I let you all know that this is my last newsletter. My family is moving to State College, Pennsylvania in May. I know that my colleagues at the Blacksburg Library will continue to do amazing programming that is relevant and necessary to our growing and changing community. Thank you for all your support over the last seven years.

Best wishes to each of you!

Monena Hall (Branch Manager)

Meadowbrook | Montgomery-Floyd Libraries were a collection point for items needed at the VA Medical Center in Salem that was held in November and December. Items collected were deodorant, denture adhesive, 3 in 1 body wash/shampoo/conditioner, body lotion, toothpaste, nail clippers, sweatpants, sweat-shirts, t-shirts, and new baseball caps. Meadowbrook Library coordinated with VFW Post 5311 to pick up the items collected and these items were delivered in December. Thank you all for your support on the collection of items needed for the VA Medical Center.

Cindy Minnick (Branch Manager)



Calendar

Reflecting on Floyd in 1973 Floyd Sun, April 2nd	Healthy Eating: Staying Active as We Age Meadowbrook Sat, April 3rd	Flower Bombs Christiansburg Thur, April 6th	Spring Plant Swap Blacksburg Sat, April 8th
Recycled Bird Houses Blacksburg Wed, April 12th	Your Money 101: Credit and Your Credit Score Floyd Thur, April 13th	Free Tax Assistance with NRCA Christiansburg Sat, April 15th	Quilting Marathon Meadowbrook Sat, April 22nd

For more information on events, please visit the library website at www.mfrrl.org

Save the Date!



**Annual New River Valley
Garden Tour**

Thank You

SPONSORSHIPS | Friends of the Library are deeply appreciative of the following businesses and individuals for their significant support of library programs and events. Each has contributed \$200 or more as named sponsors of the 2023 Summer Reading Program or the Garden Tour:

Don and Caroline Rude



Blacksburg Breakfast Lions Club

With the simple motto of " We Serve "



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Warm Hearth Village
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